



STEVEN P. RODERMUND
Registrar of Voters

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 11298
Santa Ana, California 92711

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
1300 South Grand Avenue, Bldg. C
Santa Ana, California 92705
(714) 567-7600
TDD (714) 567-7608
FAX (714) 567-7627
www.ocvote.com

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CONTACT: Neal Kelley or Brett Rowley
(714) 567-5139 (714) 567-7623

Early Voting Offered at Asian Gardens

OC Voters casting their ballots at Asian Gardens.

SANTA ANA, CA – October 21, 2004 – Nearly 400 Orange County voters have already cast their ballot at Asian Gardens for the November 2, 2004 General Election. Utilizing the county's new electronic voting system, early voting has been open to the public since October 5th and will continue until the 29th at Asian Gardens.

"We are pleased to provide Orange County residents with a greater opportunity to be involved in the electoral process," said Steve Rodermund, Registrar of Voters. Voting stations at Asian Gardens are staffed from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm seven days a week. "The early voting program allows Orange County voters the flexibility to vote around their busy schedules," Rodermund said.

During early voting, citizens may only vote in accordance with their on-file voter information. Voters who have moved or changed political parties or are not registered need to complete and submit their registration material, which must be processed by the Registrar of Voters before they are permitted to vote.

"We are excited to see that voters all over Orange County are taking advantage of early voting and that we have had such a good turnout at Asian Gardens so far," said Rodermund. "We want to get the word out so that even more voters can take advantage of this opportunity."

Early voting in Orange County will take place in 27 locations throughout the county including Albertsons (12), city halls, malls, University of California, Irvine, and of course County facilities such as the Registrar of Voters, Hall of Administration and John Wayne Airport. A full list of locations is provided on the Registrar of Voters' website at www.ocvote.com.

Voting Made Easy and Secure

No matter where they live in the County, early voters will be able to cast their ballots at any of the early voting polling places. The new electronic voting system is connected to the main database at the Registrar of Voters so that once a voter has cast a ballot; his or her name is flagged in the system to prevent the voter from voting again.

Voting More Accessible to Disabled and Non-English Speaking Citizens

The eSlate electronic voting system has an audio component that allows voters who are blind to vote unassisted for the first time in this county. Additionally, the eSlate system offers tactile switches or a “sip-and-puff” device to ensure that voters who have severe upper body mobility impairments may also cast their ballot privately and independently. As required by law, the eSlate system will give voters five languages to choose from including English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

No Local Tax Dollars Used

The new electronic voting system was funded by the federal Help America Vote Act and Proposition 41 state funds.

eSlate is a trademark of Hart InterCivic, Inc.

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